

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1066

By DeBerry J

A RESOLUTION to honor Reverend Dr. Fred C. Lofton upon his outstanding career in the ministry.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly should recognize those venerable religious leaders who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, enrich the lives of the people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Fred C. Lofton is a trailblazer for his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and has served with distinction as the pastor of Greater New Shiloh Baptist Church in Memphis since 2006; and

WHEREAS, a resident of Memphis for sixty years, Dr. Lofton began his professional career as a minister, teacher, and dean of students at that city's Owen College and served there for eight years before accepting a pastorate in Columbus, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lofton returned to Memphis in 1972 to serve as the pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church for nearly thirty years; he is still revered by the congregation there as pastor emeritus; and

WHEREAS, a renowned pastor and theologian at the local, state, and national levels, Dr. Lofton was the first African-American student to earn a doctorate degree in sacred theology from Emory University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lofton's knowledge and expertise in theology, as well as his extensive travel throughout the world, have enabled him to develop a global perspective on social and cultural issues that influence people's spirituality and religious beliefs; and

WHEREAS, at eighty-six years of age, he continues to demonstrate commitment and dedication to his calling as a minister of the gospel, having served more than sixty years in the ministry and forty-five years as a pastor; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lofton is a faithful servant leader who contributes his time, talent, and tithes to enhance the Kingdom of God, always preaching and teaching the gospel and spreading the good news about Jesus and his love; and

WHEREAS, a great orator who loves to read, write, and preach, Dr. Lofton is often called upon to conduct revivals, give lectures, and make presentations to other members of the clergy, as well as to community organizations; to date, he has authored fifteen inspirational books and has contributed articles and sermons to many periodicals; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lofton has received numerous awards, yet he remains humble and most appreciative of the many blessings that have been bestowed upon him through the hands of God's grace and mercy; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lofton was named 2006 Preacher of the Year by the Progressive National Baptist Convention, received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Leader's Award, was inducted into the Adkins High School Hall of Fame, Emory University Alumni Hall of Fame, and Morehouse College Hall of Fame, and the local chapter of the Metropolitan Achievement and Scholastics Academy is named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, he is past president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, a member and past president of the Memphis Baptist Ministerial Association, a lifetime member of the NAACP, and Argon of the Delta Chapter of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity; he also serves as director of continuing education for the Baptist Pastor's Alliance and 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-moderator of the Baptist Riverside Association; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lofton has served on the board of directors of the National Civil Rights Museum, Morehouse School of Religion, Institute of African Affairs, Congress of National Black Churches, Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association, Leadership Memphis, LeMoyne-Owen College, Shelby County Retirement Board, Community Foundation, The MED, and the Hope and Healing Center; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his doctorate, Dr. Lofton holds a Bachelor of Arts degree and Bachelor of Divinity degree from Morehouse and a Master of Science degree from the University of Southern California and is certified as a licensed Christian pastoral counselor; and

WHEREAS, this legislative body is delighted to recognize this committed Christian minister, for Reverend Dr. Fred C. Lofton is an eminent citizen of Tennessee and Memphis; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the Reverend Dr. Fred C. Lofton upon his outstanding sixty-year career in the ministry, thank him for bringing faith and hope to the lives of thousands of Christians, and extend to Dr. Lofton our best wishes for much continued success and happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.